

Growing, Learning, Sharing

REGINALD F. LEWIS MUSEUM

of Maryland African American History & Culture
2014 Annual Report



REGINALD F. LEWIS MUSEUM

of Maryland African American History & Culture
830 East Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202
www.RFLewisMuseum.org



Growing, Learning, Sharing

The Reginald F. Lewis Museum reached its ninth birthday on June 25th, 2014, near the end of the fiscal year. This young cultural institution shares similarities with a typical nine year old youth. Energy, robust growth, a desire to explore and learn, and the need to relate – these attributes come to mind immediately, and they aptly describe the museum's past year.

We grew in several meaningful ways. Lead positions in Finance and Administration, Marketing, and Development were filled, and additional support was applied to those areas. New, exterior signage announced our exhibits and our identity to passersby more noticeably than ever before. The quality of the year's three changing historical and artistic exhibits and the educational and cultural programs deriving from them drew repeated national acclaim. The enduring excellence of the three galleries comprising the permanent exhibition captured the attention of more first-time visitors than we had enjoyed in recent years. In fact, you could say that attendance has increased like a nine year old's height. The result was a robust growth in the community's participation in our signature programs, like our Third Thursday series and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. An overflowing crowd celebrated Kwanzaa, featuring founder Dr. Maulana Karenga. Our relatively new program, the African American Children's Book Festival, charmed and engaged over 600 children and accompanying adults in reading activities. That was double the attendance over the prior year. All of this growth was built upon the continued support of our long-term donors like you and substantive new friendships.

The more we grow, the more we learn how to stay robust and creative, and how to maintain the youthful museum's engagement with our visitors, from the local to the international. We are deeply grateful to all of our members, sponsors, corporate and foundation supporters like you who have made this successful year possible. We look forward to your continued support of our mission to share the iconic legacy and healing power of African American history and culture, so that we all may come closer together.

Skipp Sanders
Executive Director

Greetings from the Chairwoman of the Board of Directors

I am pleased to share the 2014 Annual Report of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture with all of our friends and benefactors, especially those who have been steadfast supporters since this institution's beginning. The progress the museum has made in all areas, with your support, speaks volumes about just how diligently we have taken to heart what we have learned since 2005, how we have grown in our outreach capability, and how determined we are to relate this iconic legacy of African American history and culture through outstanding permanent and changing exhibitions and supportive programming. What we have to share always will give intellectual and spiritual nourishment to those who take the time and take the journey. Once again, we offer our members, donors, and sponsors our deepest appreciation. Your commitment to this great institution inspires our persistence to excel in our work.

Dr. Leslie King-Hammond
Board Chair



The founder of Kwanzaa, Dr. Maulana Karenga, speaks to a record crowd at our 2013 Kwanzaa Celebration.



Public Programs

In FY2014, the museum engaged children, families, and adults with over 70 programs on a range of topics. Cultural dance performances delighted audiences, along with film screenings with post film discussions, community days, and lectures. Highlights from this year include a key note talk at our 2013 Kwanzaa Celebration by Dr. Malauna Karenga, the founder of the Kwanzaa holiday. The event drew 1,600 visitors, a record number for the annual celebration. During Women's History Month, the museum presented a double film feature called Black Beauty Revolution in Film. The documentaries screened were *Versailles 73: American Runway Revolution* and *Nappy: The Politics of Hair*. An intergenerational post-film discussion followed with the two African American female filmmakers as well as African American 70's runway models Pat Cleveland, Charlene Dash, and Alva Chin.

In addition, the museum offered several free or reduced-priced admission days throughout the year for these events. The Black Memorabilia Collector's Fair brought together collectors to display their artifacts to buyers and the general public. The event was in connection with the *The Kinsey Collection*, an exhibition of the private collection of Bernard and Shirley Kinsey. Festival days such as our annual Kwanzaa Celebration and MLK Day, and educational initiatives like the 2nd Annual African American Children's Book Fair also offered free or reduced price admission.



Highlights of Partnerships

Partnership is at the core of the museum's work. During FY2014, the museum partnered with a wide variety of organizations to foster young people, learning, and growth. Examples include:

Afrikan Youth Alchemy

The museum provided space to host the organization's annual youth film festival.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Chesapeake

The museum partnered with this group to help provide the organization's Positive Pathway Program for youth.

Maryland State Department of Education and **Maryland State Education Association** co-sponsored the High School Juried Art Show, an exhibition of Maryland student artwork at the museum.

Super Kids Camp

The museum served as an enrichment site for Super Kids Camp groups.



Left: A gospel dance showcase in conjunction with the exhibition *Ashe to Amen*. Right: Alfred Roosevelt Dudley III, a senior at Suitland High School of Prince George's County was first place awardee of the Annual High School Juried Art Show for his work "Black Rushmore."

Educating Children for Tomorrow

The museum fosters discovery for children and families through its Saturday's Child Series, a program that offers a different interactive activity each month that is tied to a season, holiday, or museum exhibition.



1. During Jazz Appreciation Month, the museum offered a children's reading in the Pennsylvania Avenue gallery with a musical presentation by a jazz trumpeter.

2. This year, community artist Sallah Jenkins led a holiday craft ornament workshop. On Flag Day, she helped visitors, like this young one, make their own flag.

3. During Black History Month, the museum hosted the Griot's Eye Youth Film and Cultural Festival. Youth presented a variety of short films and cultural presentations that they had produced.

4. Storyteller Janice Green performed as Rosa Parks during MLK weekend and helped children create protest signs to march around in the museum.

Educating Maryland's Public Schools

During this fiscal year, more than 7,000 youth were served through the museum's educational tours and programs. The museum's theme tours and educational programs support state curriculum standards and help bring the standards alive. Our tours and programming also complement the curriculum, *An African American Journey: A Resource for Learning the History of African Americans in Maryland and the United States*. The curriculum lessons were developed in partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education.

The museum further engaged schoolchildren by providing free museum admission and bus transportation for Baltimore City and Baltimore County schools to tour the exhibition *The Kinsey Collection* during Black History Month. Their access was made possible thanks to a generous gift from Wells Fargo. Children were able to see first-hand the Dred Scott decision, an early copy of the Emancipation Proclamation, and a signed copy of *Brown vs. Board of Education*. During this period, 2,596 youths or schools were able to tour the museum and see this special exhibition.

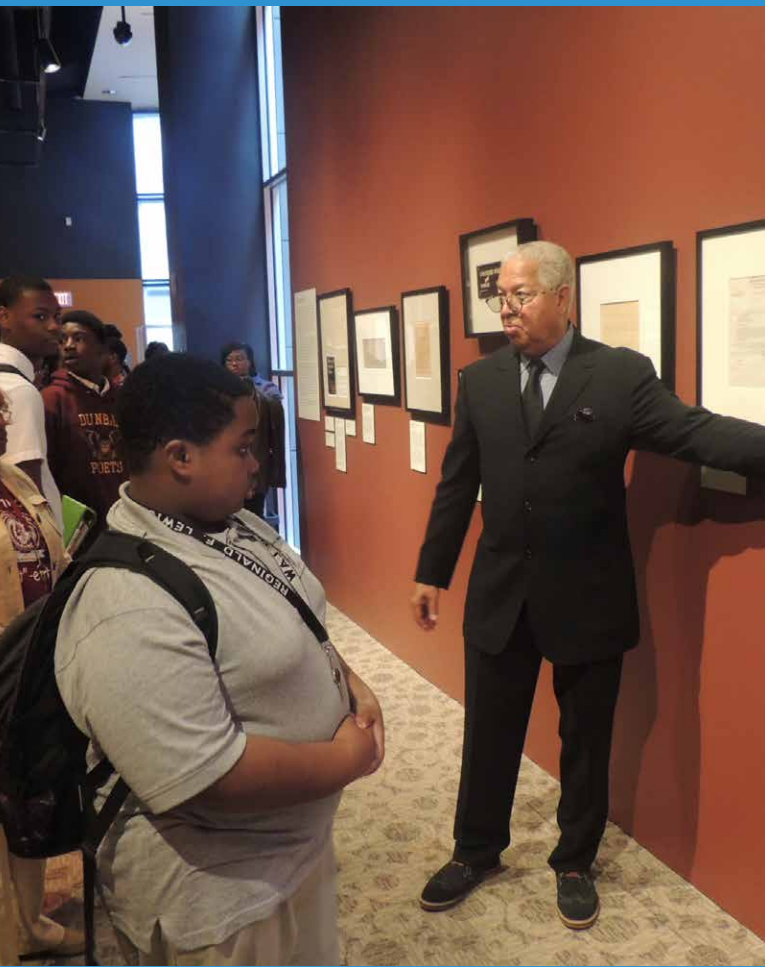
The museum continued to provide school programming for pre-schoolers this fiscal year with our Freedom Hour Program for ages 3-5 consisting of a story reading, craft activity, and gallery experience. The museum also participated in the 4th annual PreK@Play Day with Baltimore City Schools where pre-schoolers received a free cultural enrichment experience at a museum or cultural center at this citywide event. The museum serviced 356 preschoolers and chaperones from several elementary schools for this annual event.

The museum's education department continued to offer Living History to Go, an outreach program for grades K-12 that offers living history performances of Maryland African Americans that are also featured in the museum's permanent exhibition. The school outreach program serviced 350 students this year primarily from Prince George's County.

The Sixth Annual High School Juried Art Show featured high school artists from Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Montgomery County, Carroll County, Frederick County, Wicomico County, Washington County and Prince George's County. Over 80 pieces were submitted from which 21 were selected through a juried process by art educators and museum staff. The first-place winner was Alfred Dudley III, a twelfth grade student from Prince George's County.

Curriculum Development

The museum continues to promote the usage of the curriculum, *An African American Journey, A*



Bernard Kinsey shows a letter signed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on a tour for public school students of his private collection, *The Kinsey Collection*.

Resource for Learning the History of African Americans in Maryland and the United States, for grades 4-8 and grades 9-12. For FY2014, Maryland State Department of Education liaison Rose Wiggins made 53 high school lessons available online for educators on the Maryland State Department of Education website. Those high school lessons cover the subjects of social studies, English language arts, dance, and music. A high school professional development workshop using historical inquiry to teach the Civil Rights Movement is being developed for secondary educators to be released next year. Curriculum lessons continue to be distributed at educational fairs and professional development meetings.

The Education Department continues to utilize curriculum lessons and strategies for teaching African American history in the classroom by offering recertification credits to Maryland educators. The museum provided three professional development workshops this fiscal year. They included a three day workshop in July 2013 on Colonial and Early African American History which culminated in a tour of the Eastern Shore to see Underground Railroad historic sites. In March 2014, the museum offered a Civil Rights course focusing on civil rights activities in Maryland. Professional development experiences also included an African Studies Association Teacher's Workshop in November 2013 comprised of a day of presentations for K-12 classrooms by national African Studies scholars. In total, professional development was provided to 108 educators.



As part of the museum's regular professional development workshops for teachers, the museum led a guided tour of historic sites of the Underground Railroad on Maryland's Eastern Shore.



Families enjoyed author talks, book vendors, and craft activities at this year's 2nd Annual African American Children's Book Fair.

A Part of the Community

The museum presented its 2nd annual African American Children's Book Fair sponsored by BGE in May 2014 to promote literacy and provide greater exposure to African American children's books. This year's fair encompassed a reading by Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and presentations by 24 authors and illustrators from the East Coast. Illustrators included Caldecott Award winner E.B. Lewis and Jan Spivey Gilchrist, a member of the International Literary Hall of Fame for Writers of African Descent. Children received

free children's books and knapsacks at the fair. The museum achieved double the attendance compared to the event the prior year. In addition, the museum provided outreach school visits to Baltimore City Schools by illustrator London Ladd.



Collections and Exhibitions

The permanent exhibition encompasses three galleries focused on African American history and culture in Maryland. *Things Holds, Lines Connect* explores the history of African American communities and families in Maryland. *Strength of the Mind* exhibits contemporary art and presents a narrative of Maryland African American art and intellectual history. Finally, *Building Maryland, Building America* examines the history of African American labor in Maryland. These three galleries allow visitors to discover distinctive places and people that helped shape African American culture and community in Maryland.

The museum presented three major exhibitions between July 2013 and June 2014. On view June 22, 2013 through September 29, 2013, the traveling exhibition *Ashe to Amen: African Americans and Biblical Imagery* presented African American artists' interpretations of Biblical stories and traditions through historic and contemporary art. The exhibition showcased a wide range of artistic expression through approximately 60 works of art and design, dating from the late 19th century through the present, by nearly 50 African American artists, 25 of whom are still active.

On View November 2, 2013 through March 2, 2014, the traveling exhibition *The Kinsey Collection: Shared Treasures of Bernard & Shirley Kinsey - Where Art & History Intersect* was a world-class collection of art and artifacts chronicling over 400 years of African American history and culture from the 1600s to the present. Highlights included an early copy of the Emancipation Proclamation, a signed copy of *Brown vs. Board of Education* and rare works from early 19th century artists.

On view, May 17, 2014 through February 28, 2015, *For Whom It Stands: The Flag and the American People* highlights the contribution of Grace Wisher, an African American indentured servant who helped sew the Star-Spangled Banner flag. The show investigates the broader history and representation of the United States flag as an icon of our nation and its people. The exhibition includes over 100 artifacts and works of art that reflect the breadth of American

experiences towards the U.S. flag. Highlights include a fragment of the original Star-Spangled Banner flag, Gordon Parks' *American Gothic*, and the 1987 video installation, *A Logo for America*, by Alfredo Jaar.

The museum also organized a number of smaller art exhibitions which opened on the "Maryland Arts Wall" in its permanent gallery space and at two-off site locations: Thurgood Marshall Baltimore-Washington International Airport and the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House & Museum.

Donations to the Permanent Collection

Elizabeth Barbush is an artist who participated in our *East Side Stories: Portraits of a Neighborhood Then and Now* exhibition in 2009. She donated ten photographs of community leaders and landscapes from the Middle East Baltimore Community. These images were taken at a transformation period when the "Old" Middle East Baltimore Community had begun disappearing.

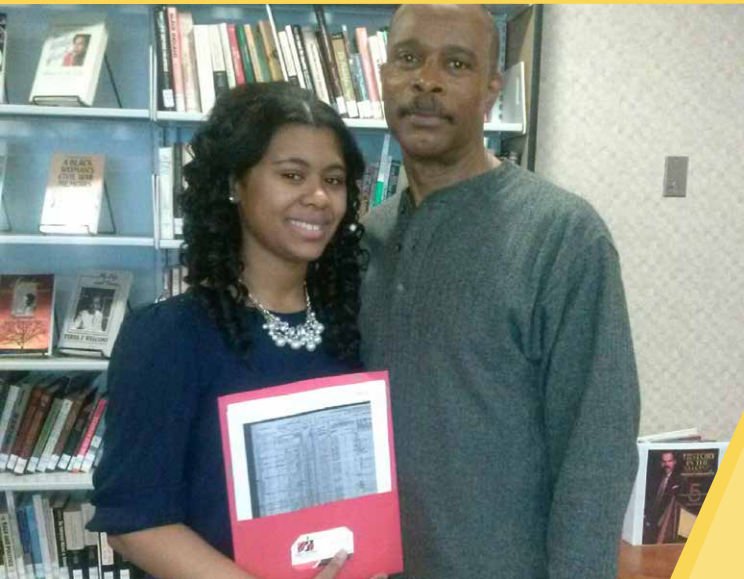
Kristin Helberg's painting *The Safe House* depicts a snowy night with African Americans carrying their belongings in bundles. In the painting, there is a woman standing in front of her home holding a lantern as a welcome sign to the travelers of the Underground Railroad.

Cheryl Dozier Payne donated a collection of objects once owned by Anna Mae Queen Holmes, a former school teacher in Maryland who was the mother of Cheryl Dozier Payne. Some of the objects that are in the collection are receipts for house payments from the 1930's, letters, programs, and a deed from 1931. There is also a book entitled *Treasured Reflections of Time: Memoirs of Anna Mae Queen Holmes*, as well as the funeral program of Anna Mae Queen Holmes.

Alyscia Cunningham's work, By Any Means, was among the works donated to the permanent collection this year. It is currently on view in the Harriet Tubman section of our permanent exhibition. This work is a photograph of a woman in profile holding a gun which mirrors the many accounts that were told regarding Tubman's fearless trips leading others to freedom.



Kira Graham and her father show the results of their genealogical research, provided as a service to the general public.



Local History Matters

Establishing a greater media presence was an important milestone the Resource Center reached this past calendar year. In the fall, the newsletter of the Center for Africana Studies at Johns Hopkins University published the article “Connecting to Collections” on the museum’s reference collection and research services. In February the Marc Steiner Show taped several segments with the museum on Maryland African American history for their feature “This Day in History.” And in the spring the museum’s first Genealogy Expo appeared in the national newsletter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS) featuring displays by the Baltimore Chapter of AAHGS.

Each year, the museum’s Speaker’s Bureau plays a key role in community outreach to retirement communities, lifelong learning groups, and government agencies. This past year veteran speakers Donna Hollie Ph.D., and Dianne Swann-Wright Ph.D. engaged audiences with lectures on 19th century black history of Baltimore City, and the Underground Railroad. The Center also welcomed two newcomers, Prof. Lester Smith, an expert on Civil War history, and Karen Sutton, a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and former staffer of Colonial Williamsburg whose specialty is the history of African American soldiers during the American Revolution. Last year our weekly family history sessions drew museum visitors from over 14 states. Our genealogy lectures included presentations at Coppin State and an insurance group from Metropolitan Life.

Through the active public program calendar of the Education Department, adult audiences heard lectures on the War of 1812 from Maya Davis of the Maryland State Archives and on black memorabilia with Philip Merrill. Black History Month ushered in our largest audience with the debut of the book *Free Blacks and the Underground Railroad: The Geography of Resistance* with Professor Cheryl LaRoche.

This past year the center was also the beneficiary of significant collections from the estate of Anna Mae Queen Holmes and a unique history quilt from descendants of the Blackwell Family of Prince George’s County. This year’s research requests included regional libraries in Virginia, New Jersey and Texas. There were in-house guests from the University of Illinois, Florida and the Netherlands as well as area schools and government agencies.

A Part of the Community



Deborah Nobles-McDaniel, Registrar and Collections Manager for the museum, regularly shares her expertise with audiences inside and outside of the institution:

“In July of 2013, Sister Carol of St. Ann’s Church, 528 East 22nd Street Baltimore, MD 21218, invited me to meet with a group of about 35 people at her church to give them an overview of the *Ashe to Amen African-Americans and Biblical Imagery* exhibition and to distribute literature about the show and the museum. As a result, the group visited the museum on September 18, 2013, to see the show.

On July 14, 2013, I met with a group of interns from the Jewish Museum of Maryland to give them a behind-the-scenes look of the museum, specifically the Collections area. They were given a tour of the museum and were later shown how our objects are numbered, marked, protected with various materials, housed, and stored. They were also given the opportunity to experience the use of some of our practices.

On April 11, 2014, Dr. Dennis Seymour of the Baltimore American Indian Center invited me to speak with participants in their *Woven with Native Hands* basketry symposium. At this symposium, I spoke briefly about the museum and about our upcoming exhibition *For Whom It Stands: The Flag and the American People*. I also invited anyone who owned objects that have an American flag motif to contact the museum for possible inclusion in our exhibition.”



Ways to Give

Stocks

The Reginald F. Lewis Museum accepts gifts of securities with great appreciation. You should consult your financial advisor to gain an understanding of the potential financial and tax advantages of making such a donation.

Workplace campaign

Give to Marian House through your workplace campaign – you may designate us to receive your payroll deduction. The Reginald F. Lewis Museum is a designee for the Chesapeake Bay Area Combined Federal Campaign (CBACFC).

Celebration or memorial gifts

Making a gift that helps others is a wonderful way to celebrate a milestone or remember an important person in your life. Celebrating events such as graduations, weddings, promotions and retirements takes on a new meaning when you help to support the museum. Likewise, remembering those who have touched your life in a special way takes on greater meaning when your generosity helps support African American Maryland history and culture. Each gift is acknowledged by a card sent to the honored person or family of the deceased person in whose name the gift is being made. The notification does not include the amount of the gift. However, as a donor, you will receive a separate acknowledgment for your own records.

Bequest

Planned giving is the name for any charitable gift requiring forethought and planning. Planned gifts can be as simple as making an outright bequest or as complex as creating a charitable trust in your will. Naming the museum as a beneficiary in your estate is a special and lasting gift.

To discuss any of the above options, you may contact the Office of Development, at (443) 263-1813. You may forward your gift to 830 E. Pratt Street Baltimore, MD 21202.

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**Statements
of Financial Position
as of June 30th**

ASSETS	2014	2013
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$742,401	\$1,095,918
Pledges receivable	-	34,916
Other receivables	85,844	64,175
Due from unrestricted fund	-	800,000
Gift Shop inventory	11,568	8,243
Deposits	-	-
Prepaid expenses	15,210	4,350
Total current assets	855,023	2,007,602
Property and Equipment, net	1,457,877	1,624,931
Non Current Assets		
Investments	6,618,027	5,146,051
Restricted cash	2,292,364	2,280,790
Total non current assets	8,910,391	7,426,841
Total Assets	\$11,223,291	\$11,059,374
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable		
Accrued payroll expenses	\$154,462	\$241,991
Accrued expenses	130,006	105,046
Line of credit	33,000	33,000
Due to endowment fund	749,313	750,000
	-	800,000
Total current liabilities	1,066,781	1,930,037
Net Assets		
Unrestricted net assets		
Temporarily restricted net assets	(598,123)	(216,845)
Permanently restricted net assets	2,105,773	875,855
	8,648,860	8,470,327
Total net assets	10,156,510	9,129,337
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$11,223,291	\$11,059,374

**Statement of Activities &
Changes in Net Assets
Year Ended June 30, 2014**

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Revenue and Support				
Grants	\$2,477,397	\$97,200	-	\$2,574,597
Contributions	90,162	468,370	\$178,533	737,066
Admissions	178,385	5,000	-	183,385
Membership dues	65,156	-	-	65,156
Rental income	92,696	-	-	92,696
Investment income	3,848	85,886	-	89,734
Realized gains	-	426,126	-	426,126
on endowments	-	-	-	-
Unrealized gains	-	643,701	-	643,701
on endowments	-	-	-	-
Other income	76,016	-	-	76,016
Net assets	496,365	(496,365)	-	-
released from restrictions	-	-	-	-
Total revenue and support	3,480,025	1,229,918	178,533	4,888,476
Expenses				
Collections & Exhibitions	895,726	-	-	895,726
Education & Public Programs	472,174	-	-	472,174
External Affairs	636,758	-	-	636,758
Management, Building, & Security	1,856,645	-	-	1,856,645
Total expenses	3,861,303	-	-	3,861,303
Increase (decrease) in net assets	(381,278)	1,299,918	178,533	1,027,173
Net assets/(deficit) beginning of year	(216,845)	875,855	8,470,327	9,129,337
Net Assets/(deficit) End of Year	(\$598,123)	\$2,105,773	\$8,648,860	\$10,156,510



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